

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4 (thrice amended) A method of treating endotoxic shock in an animal comprising the step of administering basic fibroblast growth factor to said animal, wherein said fibroblast growth factor prevents endothelial apoptosis resulting from endotoxic shock by inhibiting the generation of ceramide from sphingomyelin.

C2
Pub E2

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

10. (twice amended) A method of treating an individual at risk for sepsis, comprising the step of administering basic fibroblast growth factor to said individual, wherein said fibroblast growth factor prevents endothelial apoptosis resulting from sepsis by inhibiting the generation of ceramide from sphingomyelin.

C3
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REMARKS

Amendment

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The